The consignment was subjected to reproof by firing 13 rounds in December, 1995 out of which 12 rounds recorded failures. In view of the unsatisfactory' performance of the ammunition during check proof, the consignment was recommended as "Not fit for Use"and quality claim raised against the firm.

The case is being referred to CBI for investigation. Further action will be taken on receipt of CBI's report.

Purchase of T-90 Tanks from Russia

†2780. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to State;

(a) wether Government are considering to purchase T-90 tanks from Russia inspite of the fact that these tanks were rejected earlier;

(b)if so, the reasons for rejecting first and purchasing now;

(c) the test report of these tanks; and

(d) whether these tanks are better than Pakistani tanks?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir, These tanks were not rejected earlier.

Does not arise.

(a) AHQ have submitted General Staff Evaluation Report recommending induction of these tanks into service.

(b)The comparative analysis suggests that T-90S tank is superior to all known tanks in service with Pakistan.

Massacre of Sikhs in J & K

†2781. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether armed terrorists had shot dead 37 innocent sikhs at Chattisinghpura village in Anantnag district in Kashmir recently;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO):

(a) and (b) During the intervening night of March 20-21 terrorists armed with sophisticated weapons entered into the Sikh dominated Chattisinghpura village, in Anantnag district and shot dead 35 persons belonging to the Sikh community.

(c) and (d) The information available with the Government indicates that the Pro-Pak terrorist organisations Lashker-e-Toiba and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen are behind the killings. The State Govt, is further looking into the aspect of providing security to the Sikh villages.

RELIEF FOR SIKHS FAMILIES IN KASHMIR VALLEY

2782. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a gruesome massacre of 40 Sikhs took place in Chattisinghpura village in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b)whether adequate relief has been provided to the families of the victims;

(c) whether Government propose concrete security to the minorities in the Jammu and Kashmir against the Pak-sponsored terrorism;

(d) whether State Government has been asking for additional security forces to flush out militancy in the State; and

(e)what is Government's reaction to the demand of State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO):

35 persons belonging to Sikh community were massacred by the militants in Chattisinghpura village in Jammu & Kashmir on the intervening night of March 20-21, 2000.

(a) Ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of civilians killed due to terrorist related violence is made by the State Government on the basis of fixed norms.

(b)Government of Jammu & Kashmir have been requested to provide adequate security to the minority communities. The security forces have already strengthened the seciuity arrangements in the Sikh inhabited villages in the